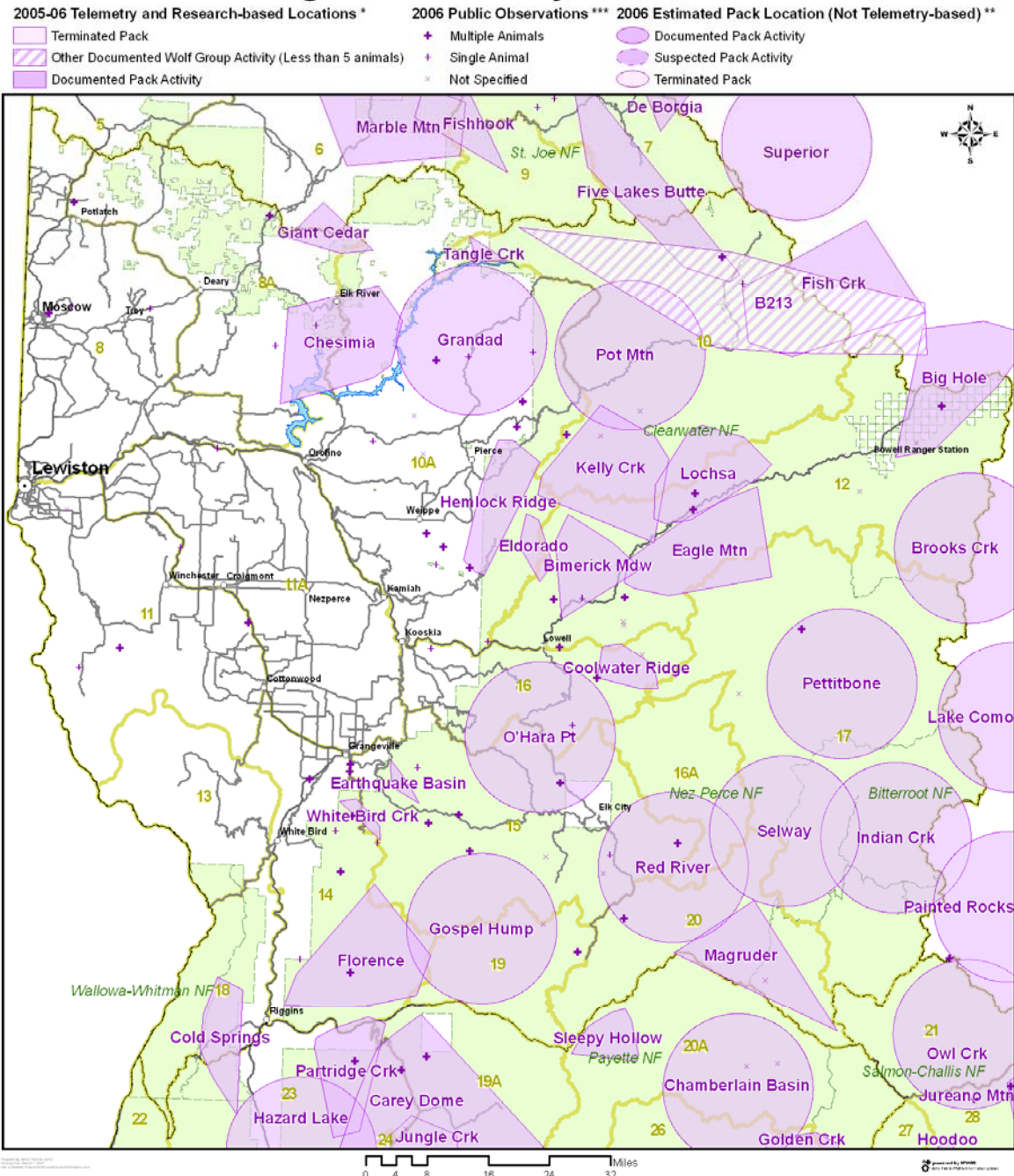


2006 Clearwater Region Wolf Activity

Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2006 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006.
*** Public Observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with: The Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDAAPHIS Wildlife Services, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; and the National Park Service

Figure 7. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Clearwater Region, 2006.

Table 3. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Clearwater Region, 2006.

Wolf pack or group	Reproductive status				Documented mortalities					Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable		
	Min. no. wolves detected ^a	Min. no. pups prod.	Reported as reprod. packs	Reported as breeding pairs ^b						Active radio collars	Number wolves captured ^f	Number wolves missing ^g	wolf-caused	livestock losses	
					Natural	Control ^c	Other human ^d	Unknown ^e	Known dispersal				Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
Documented pack															
Big Hole (MT) ^h															
Bimerick Meadow	7	6	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Brooks Crk (ID) ^h	9	6	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chesimia	4	0	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cold Springs	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coolwater Ridge	6	4	yes	yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Eagle Mountain	10	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Earthquake Basin	13	9	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Eldorado Creek	5	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Fish Creek (ID) ^h	14	7	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Florence	7	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Giant Cedar	6	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
Gospel Hump	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hemlock Ridge	6	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Indian Creek	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kelly Creek	13	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Como (MT) ^h															
Lochsa	9	1	yes	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Magruder	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O'Hara Point	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pettibone Creek	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pot Mountain	?	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red River	1	2	yes	no	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selway	4	1	yes	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Bird Creek	6	2	yes	yes	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	2
Subtotal	120	56			0	0	2	2	2	25	11	0	3	0	2
Suspected pack															
Grandad	4				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	4				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other doc. group															
B147 ⁱ	0				1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B213	3				0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
B238	1				0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Continued.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves detected ^a	Reproductive status			Documented mortalities					Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod.	Reported as reprod. packs	Reported as breeding pairs ^b	Natural	Control ^c	Other human ^d	Unknown ^e	Active radio collars		Number wolves captured ^f	Number wolves missing ^g	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	
B258	1				0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Subtotal	5				1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	
Unknown					0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Subtotal					0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Regional total	129	56			1	0	3	2	2	28	11	1	4	0	3	

^a Number of wolves detected by wolf program personnel through observations of wolves or wolf sign and believed alive at end of 2006. Unknown status denoted by “?”. Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^b Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^c Includes agency lethal control and legal take by landowners.

^d Includes all other human-related deaths.

^e Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^f Includes all wolves captured during 2006. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

^g Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2006.

^h Border pack officially tallied to (state); territory known or likely shared with Idaho. Data on these packs can be found in Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery 2006 Interagency Annual Report.

ⁱ Lost during 2006; not included in end-of-year tallies.

McCall Subregion of the Southwest Region

The McCall Subregion was home to 15 documented packs and 1 suspected pack during 2006 (Figure 8; Table 4). Nine of 10 reproductive packs qualified as breeding pairs. All documented mortalities ($n = 14$) were related to human causes: agency lethal control ($n = 10$); legal take ($n = 2$); and illegal take ($n = 2$). A Golden Creek pack disperser, originating in the McCall Subregion, was found dead in the Salmon Region. Confirmed ($n = 5$) and probable ($n = 2$) wolf-caused losses of cattle were attributed to the Gold Fork and Orphan packs, and wolves within the Hazard Lake pack home range. Confirmed ($n = 143$) and probable ($n = 2$) wolf-caused losses of sheep were attributed to the Blue Bunch, Carey Dome, Gold Fork, Jungle Creek, and Lick Creek packs, and wolves within the Hazard Lake pack home range. Due to lethal control conducted in 2004 and 2005, the status of the Hazard Lake and Partridge Creek packs was not known during 2006; these packs may no longer exist, although both were officially counted per program protocols. Ten wolves were captured by program personnel that resulted in the placement of 8 new radiocollars and replacement of 2 existing radiocollars. In addition, 2 wolves were lethally controlled after having been trapped. One wolf trapped during a lethal control effort was found dead at the capture site, apparently killed by other wolves.

Law Enforcement Summary

Regional Conservation Officers, in consultation with USFWS Special Agents, investigated 5 reports of shot or dead wolves. Of those, 2 were determined to be legally shot under authority of the 10(j) Rule while observed harassing livestock guard dogs and livestock. A Fish and Game officer responded to a report of a wolf lying dead on a road near McCall, which was determined to have been illegally shot. The fourth incident involved a dead wolf that was reported to an IDFG officer by an antler hunter; follow-up interviews led USFWS agents to conclude this was not an illegal kill. Lastly, a wolf was retrieved by an IDFG officer after it had been reported by an observer; the wolf was determined to have been shot and was turned over to the USFWS for investigation.

Documented Resident Packs

Blue Bunch

Founded by alpha female B218 and an unknown male, this pack produced its second litter of pups in 2006. The vicinity of the den site was located near their namesake ridge, where 7 gray pups were observed in early July 2006. This pack was implicated in depredations on domestic sheep, when 5 lambs were confirmed killed by wolves; the resulting control action led to lethal removal of 2 subadult females, as well as re-collaring of B218 and radiocollaring of a pup (slipped collar within 2.5 weeks). Based upon field observations, minimum pack size was estimated at 9 individuals. The Blue Bunch pack attained breeding pair status for 2006.

Carey Dome

Female wolf B257 was radiocollared during a control action in late August 2005, after depredations on domestic sheep in this area. In early May 2006, a dispersing male from the Scott Mountain pack, B263, was located on the north side of the Salmon River across from the mouth of French Creek. In May 2006, he was aerially located with B257 approximately 2 miles (3 km) west of Carey Dome. These 2 wolves were never located together again, but each used portions of what was formerly Partridge Creek pack territory, including the Little French Creek and French Creek drainages. B257 remained in the pack's home range until August, at which

time she apparently dispersed as her signal was not detected after that. B263 was observed with 2-3 other gray wolves, from the air and ground, in mid-August. Wolves known or believed affiliated with the Carey Dome pack were implicated in depredations on domestic sheep that resulted in 63 confirmed and 2 probable losses; an additional 45 sheep were missing. During control actions, 2 additional wolves, females B309 and B315, were captured and radiocollared; they were believed to be members of the Carey Dome pack, although actual number of packs and wolf membership was not certain in this area. Three pups were observed with B309 from a helicopter during a lethal control action in which 2 uncollared gray wolves were killed on Center Ridge in September 2006. A third wolf was lethally controlled during a trapping effort. During the October 2006 monitoring flight, B263's signal was detected on mortality mode; based upon their findings, USFWS Law Enforcement opened an investigation. Two other investigations were initiated in 2006 for wolves illegally killed in the Carey Dome pack's territory. Based upon field observations, minimum pack size was estimated at 6 wolves. The Carey Dome pack was considered a breeding pair for 2006.

Chamberlain Basin

During surveys of former Chamberlain Basin pack rendezvous sites, wolves were located southwest of the Chamberlain airstrip and a trapping operation was initiated. A male pup, B298, was captured and radiocollared in mid-August 2006. This was the first time the program was able to monitor this pack since 2001 when the founding pair's (male B9 and female B16) radiocollars expired. During the September 2006 monitoring flight, B298's signal was on mortality mode; investigation revealed that the pup had slipped the radiocollar. Four gray pups were observed, marking the Chamberlain Basin pack as a breeding pair for 2006.

Gold Fork

Aerial telemetry indicated that suspected alpha female B130 probably did not den during spring or lost her litter shortly after giving birth. During a June monitoring flight, she was observed with 3 other gray wolves north of Boulder Lake. Also in June, B117, formerly the Gold Fork pack's alpha male but last known associated with the Orphan pack, was legally killed while chasing cattle in the southern portion of the Gold Fork pack's territory. Field observations and information from residents of Little Valley suggested only 2-3 wolves were present in early August. This pack was implicated in depredations on cattle (3 confirmed losses) and sheep (5 confirmed losses). During a helicopter control action in late September 2006, an uncollared gray wolf with B130 was fired upon, but it was unknown whether it was killed. In late November 2006, 2 uncollared gray wolves from a group of 5 (including B130) were lethally removed. One subsequent aerial observation of 3 gray wolves was made. In December, B130 and a gray adult male wolf were lethally controlled, functionally eliminating this pack. This pack was not a breeding pair in 2006.

Golden Creek

Researchers from the University of Idaho's Taylor Ranch field station captured and radiocollared female B267 in late April, bringing to 2 the number of wolves being monitored in the pack (female B229 was radiocollared in 2005). Personnel from Taylor Ranch observed 4 gray pups near the suspected den area. A program biologist recaptured B229 in late June and found she had lactated; presumably she was the alpha (breeding) female. B267's signal was not detected after July 2006, but her carcass was reported to IDFG in November 2006; her remains were retrieved and USFWS Law Enforcement opened an investigation. Estimated pack size was 6 individuals. The Golden Creek pack was a breeding pair for 2006.

Hazard Lake

Little information pertaining to this pack was obtained in 2006 following lethal control of all radiocollared pack members in 2004 and 2005. Reported wolf activity in the Brown Creek drainage, known to have been used by this pack in the past, suggested that wolves were still present in this area, but pack status and reproduction were not confirmed. Also, 2 cattle and 5 sheep were classified as probable or confirmed wolf-kills, respectively, in this pack's home range; an additional 19 sheep were missing. The Hazard Lake pack was not a breeding pair in 2006.

Jungle Creek

This pack made an extraterritorial foray outside of their previously defined home range from December 2005 through March 2006. During that time, the sole radiocollared wolf, suspected alpha male B157, and pack mates were located north and east of New Meadows, Idaho. During an April 2006 monitoring flight, B157 and 3 gray wolves were seen traveling toward their traditional den site area. Monitoring flights in May 2006 confirmed that the pack had denned there. Field efforts in early July led to a sighting of 6 adult-sized wolves and 2 pups. Although additional pups were suspected based upon howling, only 2 were confirmed. This pack was implicated in 2 depredations on domestic sheep that resulted in the confirmed loss of 22 sheep; an additional 84 sheep were missing. Wildlife Services implemented control actions and a subadult gray female was found dead in a trap on 4 September 2006. A field necropsy suggested that this individual had been killed by other wolves; however, it is extremely unusual for wolves to kill a member of their own pack. One possible scenario was the wolf was trespassing and was killed by the resident Jungle Creek pack. Field observations led to a minimum estimated pack size of 7 individuals. This pack was a breeding pair for 2006.

Lick Creek

Multiple wolf reports were received in a short time span from the vicinity of Lick Creek Lookout in late June. Program personnel located a rendezvous site while conducting a capture operation. The alpha female, B288, was captured and radiocollared. Three gray pups and 3 gray adult-sized wolves were observed at the rendezvous site, although the number of adult wolves was estimated at 4-5 from howling. The Lick Creek pack was apparently all gray, whereas the Cold Springs pack contained 3 black wolves when last observed; the lack of black wolves could be due to death or dispersal. Further aerial telemetry data will be needed to determine pack identities in this area of potential overlap; i.e., should locations for the Lick Creek pack occur in areas formerly occupied by the Cold Springs pack, the assumption that they are the same group would be strengthened, although an alternate possibility could be that the Cold Springs pack dissolved and their territory was annexed by the Lick Creek pack. This pack was implicated in 2 depredations that resulted in 43 sheep confirmed killed; an additional 124 sheep were missing. During a helicopter control action, 2 uncollared gray wolves were fired upon, but it was unknown whether they were killed. An aerial observation of 8 gray wolves was made during winter 2006/2007. The Lick Creek pack was a breeding pair for 2006.

Monumental Creek

Female B250, captured and outfitted with a radiocollar in 2005, remained with this pack in 2006. A second wolf, female B287, was radiocollared in July 2006 near the traditional den/rendezvous site in the Monumental Creek drainage. Several days prior to B287's capture, program biologists elicited howling from multiple adults and 3+ pups there. Based upon aerial telemetry, this pack's territory encompassed the Monumental Creek drainage from its headwaters eastward to Rush Creek, with locations on the north side of Big Creek, in what would be considered the

Golden Creek pack's home range around the mouth of Cabin Creek. This pack qualified as a breeding pair for 2006.

Orphan

Following the death of female B244 in October 2005, program biologists maintained contact with the pack via male B246. His signal was detected within the pack's territory in March 2006 but was not located afterwards. With no radiocollared wolves to assist biologists, this pack was difficult to monitor. The pack did not use the same area for a rendezvous site as they did in 2005; the possibility existed that no pups were produced in 2006. Little wolf sign was detected in areas of past use, although a program biologist heard 2 adults howling in Scott Valley northeast of Cascade, Idaho. Tracks indicated that only 2 wolves were in the area at that time. A capture operation was initiated, but was terminated due to lack of wolf activity and human disturbance. An adult cow and a calf were deemed confirmed wolf-kills in this pack's home range in November 2006. Pack and reproductive status of the Orphan pack was unknown at the end of 2006.

Partridge Creek

It was believed that this pack was eliminated, dissolved, or remnant members absorbed by other packs following lethal removals and illegal kills in 2004 and 2005. Prior to depredations on domestic sheep, the Partridge Creek, Hazard Lake, Jungle Creek, and probably the Carey Dome packs were resident between McCall, Idaho, and the Salmon River. Program personnel suspected that the level of wolf control resulting from livestock depredations had potentially upset the inter- and intra-pack social dynamics of wolves inhabiting this area, which made it extremely difficult to ascertain the true number of wolf packs and their territorial boundaries, if any. Carey Dome pack members B257, B263, B309, and B315 were all located within the Partridge Creek pack's territory in 2006, including the rendezvous site used by the latter in 2004. Additional evidence supported the contention that this pack no longer existed: the Jungle Creek pack traversed the southern portion of Partridge Creek pack's territory in December 2005 and April 2006, a movement never undertaken while the latter pack was known to exist. Per program protocol, the Partridge Creek pack remained a documented pack because evidence was not conclusive regarding their demise. This pack was not a breeding pair in 2006.

Sleepy Hollow

Though it was still not resolved which radiocollared wolf was present, reproduction was confirmed for this newly documented pack. Male B148, captured as a member of the Big Hole pack, and male B181, captured as a member of the Partridge Creek pack, have adjacent radio frequencies and due to frequency drift, program personnel have been unable to identify which of these wolves was being monitored. Radio contact with B148 was lost from October 2003 until January 2005; he was approximately 71 miles (115 km) from his last location in his natal territory. After capture in January 2004, B181 moved eastward and was located in the core of Sleepy Hollow territory in April 2004; approximately 40 miles (64 km) from his last location in Partridge Creek pack home range. Aerial telemetry locations during spring 2006 indicated probable denning in a tributary entering the Salmon River from the south. In mid-August 2006, a program biologist observed 3 gray pups and heard 4 adult-sized wolves howling at a rendezvous site near Sheepeater Lookout. The Sleepy Hollow pack was documented as a breeding pair for the first time in 2006.

Stolle Meadows

Aerial telemetry locations suggested that alpha female B249 had denned in spring 2006. A reproduction survey in early June appeared to validate this as 1) pup-sized scats and beds were found in the suspected den area, and 2) both radiocollared wolves, B249 and suspected alpha male B259, were repeatedly located there. Multiple surveys and ground tracking efforts throughout the summer and fall failed to yield either a sighting of pups or elicit pup howling. Based upon aerial sightings during winter 2006/2007, pack size was estimated at 2 wolves (radiocollared pair); suggesting any pup(s) may have perished. . The Stolle Meadows pack was not a breeding pair for the second consecutive year, although, based on sign, a minimum of 1 pup was recorded.

Thunder Mountain

Program efforts to document continued wolf occupancy of this pack's territory were unsuccessful; however, reported wolf harassment of livestock at a hunting camp at Mule Hill provided evidence that wolves were still present. No evidence of reproduction was obtained, so the Thunder Mountain pack was not a breeding pair for 2006.

Wolf Fang

This pack, whose last radiocollared wolf was suspected to have died in 2003, returned to active monitored status with the capture and radiocollaring of alpha female B282 in early June. Her radio signals led biologists to a rendezvous site where 5 gray pups were observed. B282's signal was last detected in September; possibly due to premature radiocollar failure or illegal take, as it was unlikely an alpha (breeding) female would disperse. Despite B282's disappearance, the Wolf Fang pack was considered a breeding pair for 2006.

Suspected Resident Packs

Oxbow

Program personnel confirmed the presence of multiple wolves in and around the Wildhorse River drainage during winter 2004-2005. In March 2006, 2 wolves were observed fighting with livestock guard dogs north of Cambridge, Idaho. One of the wolves, a gray female, was legally killed. She was infested with lice (*Trichodectes canis*), the first known instance of this external parasite in wolves in Idaho, which had caused some hair loss. In August 2006, multiple wolves were reported howling near Lafferty Campground along the Crooked River approximately 9 miles (14 km) west of Lost Valley Reservoir. These 2 reports were approximately 22 miles (35 km) apart.

Other Documented Wolf Groups

B315

Female B315 was captured during a control action near Hartley Meadows north of McCall, Idaho, in mid-October 2006. It was supposed that she was a member of the Carey Dome pack, although other radiocollared members of that pack had not been located in the Hartley Meadows area before. Her November 2006 aerial location was along the breaks of the Salmon River west of Carey Dome approximately 13 miles (21 km). A subsequent aerial location placed her east of Pollock, Idaho, along the Little Salmon River in what was formerly Hazard Lake pack territory.